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C O P Y

30 March 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS

SUBJECT: Security Aspects of Communications Purchases

1. Reference is taken to the meeting on Communications between ADSO and OPC representatives on March 29, wherein the security aspects of communications equipment purchases were discussed.

2. As stated in that meeting it is our opinion that undisguised purchases of communications equipment by CIA constitutes a dangerous security risk inasmuch as it affords an opportunity to estimate the extent and character of communications operations.

3. It is our understanding that ADSO concurs with the above opinion, and it is therefore requested that the Communications Division, OSO, be instructed to avoid unclassified and openly vouchered purchases of communications equipment for OPC except in specific instances authorized by OPC. Since in many cases OPC and OSO communications equipment is identical but for minor details, a joint policy on the above is recommended.

/s/ [REDACTED]

25X1A9a

Assistant Director for
Policy Coordination

1st Ind.

30 March 1949

TO: Deputy Services Officer

FROM: Assistant Director, Special Operations

1. Forwarded to Deputy Services Officer as a matter pertaining to the functions of his office.

/s/ [REDACTED]

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Deputy Assistant Director
Special Operations

cc: Commo. Div.

C O P Y

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CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO BE
FILED WITH _____

On the 30th. of March 1949, the Assistant Director of Policy Coordination addressed a top secret memorandum to the Director of Central Intelligence Agency, requesting the approval of a procurement program for a project sponsored jointly by Office of Policy Coordination and Office of Special Operations, proposing that all purchases be negotiated and paid for from unvouchered funds to be allotted the aforementioned activities. This memorandum is identified by CIA File Control No. 29389. It contained the following specific statement as to method of purchase:

The Procurement of all items should be made in such a manner that, if at all possible the use of said equipment on the part of CIA in general and Office of Policy Coordination specifically is known to the smallest number of people inasmuch as the character of the equipment is such that its ultimate use can be established with a minimum application of imagination.

Under date of 13 April 1949, the Director, acting within the scope of his powers as established by Public Law 253, entitled the "National Security Act of 1947," approved the subject request as proposed in memorandum identified by file Control No. 23257. This purchase was negotiated on a non-competitive basis with a selected source of supply pursuant to this authorization.

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